

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04 SP-02 CIAE-00

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SAM-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 DHA-02 INRE-00 /065 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166934

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN US MI

SUBJECT: SCRANTON VISIT - MALAWI

REF: LILONGWE 510

1. IN PLANNING AFRICAN TRIP OF GOV. SCRANTON, SHORT STOP IN MALAWI EN ROUTE FROM TANZANIA TO MOZAMBIQUE WAS CONSIDERED, ON GROUNDS THAT VISIT MIGHT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS US APPRECIATION FOR MALAWI'S VERY POSITIVE VOTING RECORD IN UNGA. GOM'S RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES PLUS EXPULSION OF GOAN COMMUNITY, WHICH CAME JUST DAYS BEFORE FINAL SCHEDULE FOR TRIP WAS FORMULATED) WAS A FACTOR IN FINAL DECISION.

2. HOWEVER, IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRY BY GOM YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT VARIETY OF FACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN SCHEDULING
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US VIP VISITS. IN THE CASE OF MALAWI, MAJOR FACTOR IN

FAVOR OF A VISIT WAS THE STRONG SUPPORT MALAWI HAS GIVEN
US ON KEY UN VOTES. USG APPRECIATES THIS SUPPORT AND
HOPES IT WILL CONTINUE. UNFORTUNATELY, SCHEDULING PROBLEMS
AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS PREVENTED GOV. SCRANTON FROM
VISITING MALAWI, AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. ROBINSON

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